

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 192826

56

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-02 USIA-15 AID-05 IGA-02 SS-15

SP-02 L-03 H-02 INR-07 /065 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:DASTRASSER:BD

APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:THEAVNER

ARA-LA/CAR:WBWHEELER

----- 002010

P 041536Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 192826

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, SWEL, PGOV, HA

SUBJECT:SECOND JACK ANDERSON COLUMN ON HAITI

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE ENTITLED "AMERICAN LUXURY, HAITIAN POVERTY" IN JACK ANDERSON/LES WHITTEN COLUMN WHICH APPEARED IN AUGUST 4 WASHINGTON POST:

2. QUOTE NESTLED HIGH ON THE HILLS ABOVE PORT-AU-PRINCE ARE FASHIONABLE, WALLED VILLAS, EQUIPPED WITH SPARKLING SWIMMING POOLS AND STAFFED BY GRACIOUS SERVANTS.

3. THIS IS WHERE THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS RESIDE, WITH THEIR FAMILIES. THEY CAME TO HAITI TO ADMINISTER AMERICAN AID. THEIR MISSION IS TO HELP DEVELOP THE IMPOVERISHED NATION AND FEED ITS HUNGRY PEOPLE.

4. A GENEROUS PORTION OF THE U.S. OFFERING GOES TO MAINTAIN THE AID ADMINISTRATORS IN THE HIGH STYLE THEY HAVE ADOPTED. THEY LIVE IN LUXURY; THEY ARE WAITED ON BY SERVANTS; THEY BELONG TO EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE CLUBS, THEY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 192826

ATTEND LAVISH COCKTAIL AND DINNER PARTIES.

5. YET BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THEY COLLECT EXTRA HARDSHIP PAY OF ABOUT 15 PER CENT FOR ENDURING THE RIGORS OF PORT-AU-PRINCE. THEY ARE ALSO GRANTED TWO EXTRA WEEKS OF STATESIDE VACATION, ON TOP OF THEIR NORMAL LEAVE, TO RECUPERATE FROM THE HARD LIFE.

6. THEY DRAW A GENEROUS HOUSING ALLOWANCE TO HELP PAY THE RENT ON THEIR FANCY VILLAS. THEY MAKE BIWEEKLY FLIGHTS TO GUANTANAMO BAY TO PICK UP INEXPENSIVE AMERICAN FOOD FROM THE U.S. COMMISSARY. THEY CAN CLAIM A GENEROUS "EDUCATIONAL ALLOWANCE," TOO, TO HELP WITH THEIR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION.

7. AFTER HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS HAVE BEEN SQUEEZED OUT OF THE AID BUDGET FOR THE CARE AND COMFORT OF THE ADMINISTRATORS, THE REST OF THE MONEY IS USUALLY TURNED OVER TO THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT TO DISTRIBUTE. ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS ARE DIVERTED INTO THE POCKETS OF HAITIAN OFFICIALS. GRAIN INTENDED FOR THE POOR, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS BEEN STOLEN AND SOLD BY CORRUPT CUSTOMS OFFICIALS.

8. WE SENT OUR REPORTER, HAL BERNTON, TO HAITI TO FIND OUT WHETHER ANY OF THE AID REACHES THE PEOPLE IT WAS INTENDED FOR. WITH A KNAPSACK ON HIS BACK, HE TRAVELED TO THE MOST DESOLATE, DROUGHT-STRICKEN REGION OF THE TINY CARIBBEAN COUNTRY. HE LIVED FOR MORE THAN A WEEK WITH THE PEOPLE IN A REMOTE VILLAGE.

9. HE SAW NAKED CHILDREN TOO WEAK FROM HUNGER TO PLAY, THEIR BELLIES BLOATED BY MALNUTRITION. THE VILLAGERS SUBSISTED LARGELY ON MANGOES. BUT THE LAST MANGO WOULD SOON BE DEVoured. THE PEOPLE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THEY WOULD EAT AFTER THAT.

10. THE AMERICAN AID OFFICIALS ARE USUALLY TOO BUSY PLANNING AND PARTYING IN PORT-AU-PRINCE TO VISIT THE VILLAGERS. THOSE WHO DO USUALLY DRIVE THROUGH ON JEEPS. MOST ARE TOO TIED UP WITH PAPERWORK TO LEAVE THEIR DESKS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 192826

11. DURING THE FISCAL YEAR THAT ENDED ON JUNE 30, THE AMERICAN TAXPAYERS DONATED NEARLY \$18 MILLION IN FOREIGN AID TO HAITI. A TINY TRICKLE OF FOOD-FOR-WORK HAS REACHED THE REMOTE VILLAGE THAT BERNTON VISITED.

12. IN THE PAST, AMERICAN AID HAS ALSO HELPED TO BUILD HOSPITALS, CONSTRUCT ROADS, TAP WATER AND DISTRIBUTE

FOOD. THIS HAS SAVED LIVES AND ALLEVIATED SUFFERING. BUT
IT'S THE AID OFFICIALS WHO ARE THE MOST COMFORTED, THE

HAITIANS OFFICIALS WHO ARE ENRICHED.

13. BERNTON INSPECTED A ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT, THAT
IS PARTIALLY FINANCED WITH U.S. DEVELOPMENT FUNDS. HE
FOUND 240 PEASANTS SLOWLY BUILDING A ROAD TO THEIR VILLAGE,
WHICH WAS LOCATED ON TOP OF A HIGH MOUNTAIN PLATEAU. WITH
PICKS, SHOVELS AND WHEELBARROWS, THEY MOVED THE ROAD AHEAD.

14. THE MEN WERE GAUNT, LEAN AND ANGRY. FOR MORE THAN
TWO MONTHS THEY HAD TOILED WITHOUT A PENNY IN PAY. THE
HAITIAN GOVERNMENT HAD PROMISED THEM 50 CENTS A DAY. BUT
THE MONEY HAD NEVER MADE IT THROUGH THE STICKY FINGERS OF
THE HAITIAN OFFICIALS.

15. THE RAGGED WORKERS GATHERED AROUND BERNTON. IN
BROKEN CREOLE FRENCH, THEY PLEADED; "WE HAVE ALMOST
NOTHING LEFT TO EAT NOW. WE HAVE ONLY ONE MEAL A DAY OF
CORNMEAL. GET US OUR MONEY."

16. NOT ONLY HAITIAN BUT AMERICAN OFFICIALS ARE DEPRIVING
THE HUNGRY WORKERS. THE GREAT NEED IN THE HAITIAN HINTER-
LAND IS FOR JOBS. BUT AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAVE STIPULATED
THAT MOST OF A \$5 MILLION ROAD CONSTRUCTION LOAN MUST BE
SPENT ON HEAVY MACHINERY PURCHASED FROM UNITED STATES FIRMS.

17. THE FIELD EXPERTS TOLD BERNTON THAT THE NEW MACHINES
WILL SOON JOIN OTHER BULLDOZERS AND TRACTORS LITTERING
THE HAITIAN COUNTRYSIDE. THE BEST WAY TO BUILD ROADS IN
HAITI, NO MATTER HOW INEFFICIENT IT MAY SEEM, IS WITH MAN-
POWER. AND THE PEOPLE DESPERATELY NEED THE WORK.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 192826

18. BERNTON SPENT SOME TIME IN AN IMPOVERISHED VILLAGE
WHERE THE PEOPLE HAD NO JOBS AND LITTLE LAND THAT COULD BE
CULTIVATED. EACH DAY, THEY WOULD SCALE THE STEEP HILLSIDE
IN SEARCH OF WOOD THAT COULD BE BURNED INTO CHARCOAL.
AFTER THEY LABORIOUSLY PRODUCED A FEW SACKS OF CHARCOAL,
THEY WOULD TREK 10 MILES TO THE NEAREST MARKET TO EXCHANGE
THE CHARCOAL FOR MANGOES.

19. BUT THEY COULDN'T PRODUCE ENOUGH CHARCOAL TO BUY THE
FOOD THEY NEEDED. THEIR CHILDREN, WEAK FROM HUNGER, SAT
AROUND LISTLESSLY. IT WAS AN AGONIZING CONTRAST TO THE
VILLAS IN THE PORT-AU-PRINCE HILLS. UNQUOTE. HABIB

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TEXT, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE192826
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DASTRASSER:BD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760300-0618
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760887/aaaacygj.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECOND JACK ANDERSON COLUMN ON HAITI
TAGS: SOPN, SWEL, PGOV, HA, US
To: PORT AU PRINCE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006